

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 17, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 2-10, 19-22 and 25 have been allowed. Claims 12-15, 18, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination.

Herein, independent claims 12 and 15 have been amended to identify that the "port" is the same port throughout the claim. Moreover, with respect to claims 12, 15, 26 and 27, the phrase "disallowing the port membership," while proper, has caused some confusion as to its proper interpretation. The phrase is read "disallowing...the port...membership" where "..." denoting pauses in speech during such reading of the phrase. In essence, the phrase may be best understood as "disallowing membership of the port". Therefore, an appropriate non-narrowing amendment has been made to clarify the phrase as requested by the Examiner.

With respect to claim 18, the punctuation and the additional conjunction have been corrected.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding §112 rejection.

Conclusion

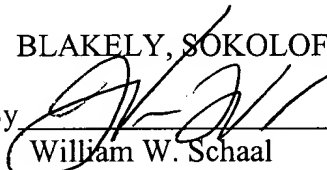
Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims and receipt of a timely Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 11-17-04

By


William W. Schaal

Reg. No. 39,018

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

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Date: 11-17-04


Susan McFarlane

11-17-04

Date

Appl. No. 09/665,035
Amdt. Dated 11-17-04
Reply to Final Office Action of September 17, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1, which adds reference number 120 and replaces the original sheet.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet and annotated sheet showing changes